

## Is the HPV vaccine safe?



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has licensed both Gardasil® and Cervarix® as safe and effective. The most common side effects of vaccination were soreness at the injection site, headache and nausea.

## How is the HPV vaccine given?

Vaccines are given in three doses over 6 months.

- 1st dose: Now—or at a date you and your healthcare provider choose
- 2nd dose: 1 or 2 months after 1st dose
- 3rd dose: 6 months after 1st dose



HPV vaccines can be given at the same time as other vaccines.

## What is the cost of the HPV vaccine?



Cost for HPV vaccines can vary. Most insurance plans and managed care plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. Check with your insurance provider to be certain the HPV vaccine is covered.

## How can my family get the vaccine if we don't have insurance and cannot afford it?

NJ Vaccines for Children (VFC) is a federally funded, state-operated vaccine supply program that provides pediatric vaccines at no cost to doctors who serve children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. There are over 1,200 medical providers enrolled in the New Jersey VFC program. For more information, contact the NJDHSS Vaccines for Children Program at (609) 826-4862 or [vfc@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:vfc@doh.state.nj.us).



## Where can I get more information?

- Your healthcare provider
- NJDHSS website: [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)
- CDC HPV Information: [www.cdc.gov/hpv](http://www.cdc.gov/hpv)
- CDC-INFO Contact Center (English and Spanish): 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: (888) 232-6348
- NJ Vaccines for Children Program:  
609-826-4862 [vfc@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:vfc@doh.state.nj.us)



This information is intended for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation with a health care professional.

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# HPV

## Human Papillomavirus



Questions and Answers  
about Risk and Prevention

## What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

Human papillomavirus (pap-ah-LO-mah-VYE-rus) (HPV) is a common virus that is passed from person to person through oral sex, anal sex or penile-vaginal sex. There are more than 40 HPV types that can infect the genital areas of males and females. HPV is the major cause of cervical cancer in women.



## What are the symptoms of HPV?

Most people do not show any symptoms of HPV. Some types of HPV can cause warts in the genital or anal areas.

## How common is HPV?

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. At least half of sexually active people will get HPV some time in their lives. Every year in the U.S., about 6 million people get HPV. HPV is most common in people in their late teens and early 20s.



## Is there a cure for HPV?

There is no cure for HPV infection. Most of the time the infection will clear on its own, but other times it does not. However, treatments are available for warts and precancerous changes.

## What is the connection between HPV and cancer?



HPV infection with one of the “high risk” types of the virus is associated with several types of cancer. Each year in the U.S, about 18,000 HPV associated cancers affect women, with cervical cancer being the most common type.

About 7,000 HPV associated cancers affect men each year.

## What is the connection between HPV and genital warts?

Certain types of HPV cause warts in the genital or anal areas. Warts can vary in size, appearance and number.

## How can I prevent HPV and its related diseases?

- ◆ Get vaccinated for HPV.
- ◆ Use condoms or other latex barriers for oral, anal, and penile-vaginal sex to reduce the risk of getting or passing HPV.
- ◆ Girls/women should get regular pap tests to detect HPV lesions and treat them before they become cancerous.
- ◆ Some experts recommend yearly anal pap smears for certain high-risk groups.



## What is the HPV vaccine?

There are two HPV vaccines approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Both vaccines (Cervarix® and Gardasil®) protect against most cervical cancers in females. One vaccine (Gardasil®) is also approved to prevent most genital warts and anal cancers in both males and females. Neither vaccine will treat existing HPV infections or complications.



## Who should get the HPV vaccine?

Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) recommend routine HPV vaccination for all 11-12 year old girls and boys. The vaccine is also recommended for 13-26 year old girls/women and 13-21 year-old boys and men who have not yet received or completed the full series of shots. The vaccine should also be considered for men 22-26 years of age.



**HPV is preventable. Learn the facts. Protect yourself.**